

REMARKS / ARGUMENTS

I. General Remarks and Disposition of the Claims

Please consider the application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks. Applicants thank the Examiner for his careful consideration of this application, including the references Applicants have submitted in this application. To this extent, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the following references discussed below.

In the Office Action, claims 1, 3-19, 21-28, 30, 32-36, 38-42, 44, 56, 58-62, 64-73, 82-100, and 102-111 were rejected. In the November 15, 2007 Response, claims 13, 14, 30, 56, 68, 69, 82, 95, 106, and 107 were amended. By the present Supplemental Amendment and Response, Applicants have amended claims 14, 68, 69, and 107. These amendments are supported by the specification as filed. All the amendments are made in a good faith effort to advance the prosecution on the merits of this case. It should not be assumed that the amendments made herein were made for reasons related to patentability. Applicants respectfully request that the above amendments be entered and further request reconsideration in light of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

II. Remarks Regarding Information Disclosure Statements

After filing the November 15, 2007 Response, Applicants noticed that the Examiner did not consider three references submitted on an Information Disclosure Statement submitted to the Patent Office on August 7, 2007. These three references were, "Foreign Communication from a Related Counterpart Application" dated September 25, 2006, "Foreign Communication from a Related Counterpart Application" dated December 28, 2006, and "Foreign Communication from a Related Counterpart Application" dated May 29, 2007. The Examiner has not provided any basis for refusing to consider these references. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider these three reference. For the Examiner's convenience, Applicants have submitted herewith courtesy copies of these three references. Furthermore, Applicants have also noticed that the Information Disclosure Statement submitted to the Patent Office on November 13, 2006 appears to not yet have been either considered by the Examiner. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the November 13, 2006

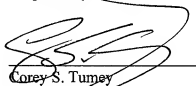
Information Disclosure Statement, and indicate whether or not the art cited in that statement has been considered.

SUMMARY

In light of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections. Applicants further submit that the application is now in condition for allowance, and earnestly solicit timely notice of the same. Should the Examiner have any questions, comments or suggestions in furtherance of the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the attorney of record by telephone, facsimile, or electronic mail.

Applicants believe that no fees are due in association with the filing of this response. Should the Commissioner deem that any fees are due, including any fees for extensions of time, Applicants respectfully request that the Commissioner accept this as a Petition Therefor, and direct that any additional fees be charged to Baker Botts, L.L.P.'s Deposit Account No. 02-0383, Order Number 063718.0358.

Respectfully submitted,



Corey S. Tumey

Reg. No. 27,079

BAKER BOTTS, L.L.P.

910 Louisiana Street

Houston, Texas 77002-4995

Telephone: 713.229.1812

Facsimile: 713.229.2812

Email: Corey.Tumey@bakerbotts.com

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